

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7**  
11201 Renner Blvd., Lenexa, KS 66219

Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Nine Tribal Nations

## **EPA Announces Determination of Extent of Radiologically Impacted Material in West Lake Landfill**

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### **Environmental News**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

(Lenexa, Kan., November 24, 2015) – EPA Region 7 has completed the Phase 1D field investigation of the West Lake Landfill to fully define the extent of radiologically impacted material (RIM) contamination at the south and west boundary of Operable Unit 1, Area 1 of the site.

During the investigation, contractors for the Potentially Responsible Parties, under EPA oversight, took a total of 25 samples from soil borings. These samples were sent to a certified laboratory for analysis.

Understanding where and how much RIM the landfill contains is a critical step to assist in evaluating potential locations for an isolation barrier. Defining the extent of RIM will also inform EPA's decision regarding a final remedy for the site.

"The completion of this phase of the site investigation allows EPA to quickly move towards a decision on the isolation barrier," Region 7 Administrator Mark Hague said. "We are committed to making that decision by the end of this year and to ensuring the residents and businesses remain protected from the waste contained at the landfill."

[INSERT QUOTE FROM MISSOURI ATTORNEY GENERAL?]

EPA is evaluating isolation barrier alternatives to prevent a subsurface smoldering event (SSE) occurring in the Bridgeton Landfill from advancing to the areas of the West Lake Landfill containing RIM. EPA currently estimates the SSE remains approximately 1,000 feet from the RIM.

The Phase 1D field work began in summer 2015. The Phase 1D work builds on sampling in this area of the site that previously identified areas of RIM. EPA is now working closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to evaluate the data from the Phase 1D investigation. Once EPA and USACE have completed their analyses, EPA will announce a decision regarding an isolation barrier. EPA expects to make that decision by the end of 2015.

An updated map that outlines the extent of RIM within the West Lake Landfill is available on EPA's West Lake Landfill website:

[http://www3.epa.gov/region07/cleanup/west\\_lake\\_landfill/index.htm](http://www3.epa.gov/region07/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/index.htm)

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Learn more about the West Lake Landfill Superfund site:  
[http://www3.epa.gov/region07/cleanup/west\\_lake\\_landfill/index.htm](http://www3.epa.gov/region07/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/index.htm)  
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